(c) whether private participation is proposed to be promoted; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The strategies to promote tourism include introduction of luxury tourists trains, heritage trains, revitalising hill railways, steam trains on selected sections, promoting chartered specials and setting up of budget hotels. In addition Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation has been set up to expand into new areas of tourism and also develop value added tourism packages in collaboration with private participation.

Improvement in transport facilities at a station are determined on the basis of traffic requirements. Additional works where-ever required are taken up subject to availability of resources and as per the priority of the works.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Private participation in tourism and transport facilities are envisaged through partnership with State Tourism Corporations, leading tour operators and other service providers.

Work-charged gazetted posts in Railways

2863. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railway Men's Unions have pointed out that a large number of gazetted posts in the Railways are work-charged;

(b) whether it is a fact that such posts are created at will; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to set right the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir. A representation has been received.

(b) No, Sir, such posts are created against specific provision made in the sanctioned estimates based on yardsticks approved by Board

on year to year basis and cease to operate when a particular project has been completed or sanctioned period expires.

(c) Does not arise

Construction of Railway Divisional Office at Ahmedabad

2864. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT:
SHRI AHMED PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gujarat Government has alloted land for construction of Divisional office at Ahmedabad;

(b) if so, the land which has been allotted by the Centre in exchange;

(c) whether any evaluation of land rates has been done;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the construction of the Divisional office has started;

(f) the outlay earmarked for the last two years, till date;

(g) whether the Divisional office has started functioning; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes Sir. About 28000 sqm of land of R.C. Technical Institute, which included 8820 sqm building has been handed over by the Gujarat Govt. for construction of Divisional Office at Ahmedabad.

(b) Railway has agreed to hand over its surplus land at Thatlej in exchange of RCT land to State Government in terms of equivalent money value of both lands based on the valuation of above lands carried out by the State Government. However, the exchange of land is still not finalized as land valuation and exact requirement at Thatlej is yet to be advised by State Govt.